



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS,
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/669,958	09/26/2000	John E. Bjorkholm	IL-10660	5131

7590

05/16/2003

L E Carnahan
Patent Agent
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
P O Box 808 L 703
Livermore, CA 94551

EXAMINER

YOUNG, CHRISTOPHER G

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1756

DATE MAILED: 05/16/2003

9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/669,958

Applicant(s)

Bjorkholm et al.

Examiner

Young

Group Art Unit

1756

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE —3— MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 3/7/03 & 5/9/03
- ☒ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 111; 453 O.G. 213.**

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- ☐ Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
 - ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____
 - ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 7
- ☐ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

Part of Paper No. 9

1. This Office action is responsive to the Information Disclosure Statement (Paper No. 7) filed March 7, 2003 and the Request for Reconsideration (Paper No. 3) filed May 9, 2003.

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

3. Claims 1-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Garza et al.

The discussion in the remarks of the amendment explaining why the scope of the protection sought is patentable over the applied prior art of record has been carefully considered but is not deemed to be persuasive for the reasons of record as set forth in paragraph 4 of the last Office action in combination with the following remarks.

Applicant's arguments are drawn specifically to the fact that the teachings of Garza et al. are for correcting reflective notching. There is a discussion of what reflective notching is at page 4 of the response. It is then asserted that the teachings of Garza et al. are drawn to using mask biasing to compensate for critical dimension variations caused by optical proximity effects, and not for correcting flare-induced critical dimension variations. It is also stated that there is no discussion of flare correction in the reference. The Examiner agrees that there is no discussion of "flare" correction in the reference, however, flare induced changes are also referred to as

Art Unit 1756

back scattering of light changes. Reflective notching issues that require optical proximity correction can be caused by the back scattering of light (flare). Furthermore, a careful review of claim 1 of the instant application states that mask biasing is used to largely eliminate the critical dimension changes caused by flare and its variations. This is a very broad scope in the claim and a variation of flare could also be considered reflective notching issues as set forth by Garza et al.

In view of these comments and the non-amended scope of the claims as currently presented, the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejection is maintained. The Examiner again specifically points out column 12, line 5 - column 14, line 31 of Garza et al.

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). The practice of automatically extending the shortened statutory period an additional month upon the filing of a timely first response to a final rejection has been discontinued by the Office. See 1021 TMOG 35.

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE TO THIS FINAL ACTION IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS ACTION. IN THE EVENT A FIRST RESPONSE IS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE MAILING DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION AND THE ADVISORY ACTION IS NOT MAILED UNTIL AFTER THE END OF THE THREE-MONTH SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD, THEN THE SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD WILL EXPIRE

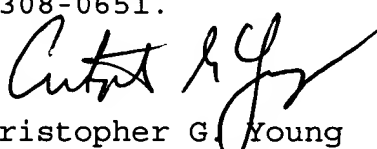
Art Unit 1756

ON THE DATE THE ADVISORY ACTION IS MAILED, AND ANY EXTENSION FEE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) WILL BE CALCULATED FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THE ADVISORY ACTION. IN NO EVENT WILL THE STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE EXPIRE LATER THAN SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher Young, whose telephone number is (703) 308-2984. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Huff, can be reached on (703) 308-2464. A Fax communication that is for a non-final fax should be sent to (703) 872-9310. An after final fax should be sent to (703) 872-9311.

Any inquiry of general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0651.


Christopher G. Young
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1756

C. Young:cdc
May 15, 2003